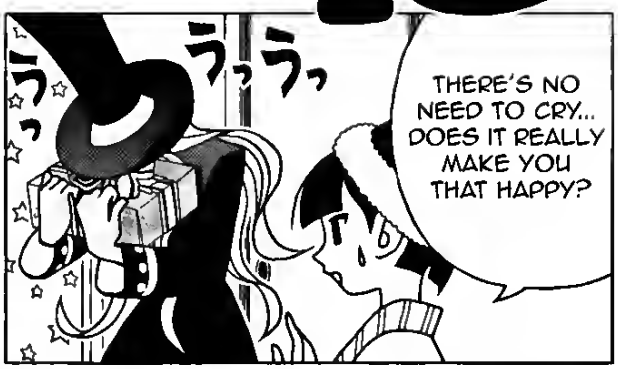


せっかち伯爵と時間どろぼう

せっかち伯爵と時間どろぼう

depuis 2013

HAVING SOMEONE'S TRASH PUSHED ON ME IS JUST TOO MUCH!
CHRISTMAS IS THE ONLY DAY OF THE YEAR THAT WE'RE ALLOWED TO THROW AWAY OUR GARBAGE!
I THOUGHT YOU WERE THE ONE WHO PUT IT TOGETHER.
WHAT DID WE GET HIM, AGAIN?
UM...
THEN WHAT'S IN HERE!?
DON'T CALL IT TRASH! THAT'S JUST RUDE!
WELL, IT WASN'T ME.
WHY SHOULD I HAVE TO BE THE ONE WHO BUYS THE COUNT'S PRESENT?
I JUST FOUND IT LYING ON THE WINDOWSILL EARLIER.
DON'T MAKE IT SOUND LIKE RECYCLABLE WASTE.
TECHNICALLY, THIS KIND OF TRASH IS CALLED DIMENSIONAL WASTE.
IT'S ONLY SUPPOSED TO BE DISPOSED OF IN THE THIRD DIMENSION.
IT WAS THE REAL SANTA?
NO WAY ...
SO IT'S GARBAGE AFTER ALL!

AH... HERE SHE GOES.
SOME-THING PARENTS BUY FOR THEIR KIDS!?
AND ANYWAY, AREN'T CHRISTMAS PRESENTS ...
AND THAT'S WHY...
THAT'S RIGHT.
THERE'S NO WAY IT'S JUST TRASH THAT SANTA THROWS AWAY!
WHERE THE CHILD DOESN'T BELIEVE IN HIM.
SANTA DOESN'T THROW ANYTHING AWAY AT HOUSES...
THAT DOESN'T MAKE FOR A VERY NICE STORY AT ALL.
ARE USED AS TRASH HEAPS?
SO ONLY HOUSEHOLDS WHERE THE DREAM OF SANTA IS STILL ALIVE IN THE CHILD'S HEART...
THIS IS JUST A SUPER-HUMAN'S—
IT'S PER-FUME!
IT'S SOME-THING GOOD AFTER ALL!
SHALL WE OPEN IT AND SEE?
SO THERE'S REALLY TRASH IN IT?

ONII-SAMA, GENTLEMEN FROM ALL ACROSS TOWN HAVE SENT ME THESE WONDERFUL GIFTS.
SHE'S BEAUTIFUL...
GARBAGE?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING COVERED IN GARBAGE!?
HAVE YOUR MEMORIES OF THE FOURTH DIMENSION ALREADY BECOME SO FADED?
TO ALLOW YOURSELF TO DRESS SO SHABBILY...
① PERFUME ...
どぼどぼ
IS JUST FOUR-DIMENSIONAL SEWAGE!
Waste pipe no 5
② STUFFED ANIMALS ...
ARE HAIRBALLS LEFT BEHIND WHEN SOMEONE TIME-LEAPS!
③ PLATINUM RINGS ...
ARE MADE FROM HARDENED SKIN LEFT OVER FROM CIRCUMCISIONS!
AND TRIPLE RINGS ARE MADE FROM TRIPLETS!
IT'S ALL GARBAGE!

④ High heels are old sprues from plastic models
⑤ Dresses are pant legs cut from bell-bottom pants
⑥ Ribbons are shoelaces that come with magazines
⑦ Earrings are dental fillings that have fallen out
⑧ Tubes of lipstick are suppositories

AS FAR AS PERFUME AND JEWELS AND HANDBAGS AND SHOES AND STUFF GO, I'D BE HAPPY TO TAKE THEM!
THOSE ARE ALL THINGS THAT ARE NORMALLY CONSIDERED VALUABLE IN OUR WORLD, SO WHO CARES!?
キラキラ
GLANCE
ONE PERSON'S OLD, WORN-OUT PANTIES AND STOCKINGS...
ARE TREASURE TO SOME PEOPLE!
WHEN THEY SAY THAT ONE MAN'S TRASH IS ANOTHER MAN'S TREASURE...
IT'S FOR GOOD REASON.
WHETHER SOMETHING IS CONSIDERED VALUABLE OR NOT VARIES FROM PERSON TO PERSON.
ARE TREASURE TO A CERTAIN PERSON!
THE NERV COMMANDER'S BROKEN GLASSES...
ARE TREASURE TO SOME!
EMPTY CANS OR CIGARETTE BUTTS THAT HAVE TOUCHED AN IDOL'S LIPS...
IT MAKES ME LOOK LIKE YAKU MITSURU OR SOMETHING!
THOSE ARE TERRIBLE EXAMPLES!
BASICALLY, IT'S THE SAME KIND OF THING WITH MAGO.
2013 FULL
2014 FULL
FULL
Dimensional Waste
Dimensional Waste
Dimensional Waste
imensional Waste
ACCORDING TO A DECISION BY THE INTER-DIMENSIONAL DISPOSAL AGENCY...
DISPOSAL OF DIMENSIONAL WASTE BETWEEN THE YEARS 2000 AND 2100 SHOULD NO LONGER BE ALLOWED.
AND YET IT'S STRANGE...
PERFUME AND JEWELLERY ARE THINGS NORMAL PEOPLE WOULD ALL BE HAPPY TO RECEIVE!

ピッ
BUT IF THEY WERE REALLY COMING FROM THAT FAR IN THE PAST...
IT'S CERTAINLY POSSIBLE...
COULDN'T THEY BE COMING HERE FROM A TIME BEFORE THAT DECISION WAS MADE?
THAT'S NOT SANTA AT ALL!
IS THIS WHAT THE PERSON YOU CALL SANTA CLAUS LOOKS LIKE?
S
THIS IS WHAT THE INTER-DIMENSIONAL DISPOSAL AGENCY'S WORK UNIFORMS LOOKED LIKE BACK THEN.
THAT ISN'T SANTA!
THAT UNI-FORM ...
LOOKS LIKE THIS!
SANTA ...
20XX X'mas SALE!
Sale ends 12/25
HAVE REALLY COME TO THIS YEAR...
IF THOSE GUYS...
X'mas SALE!
IF HE'S NOT SANTA, THEN WHAT IS HE!?

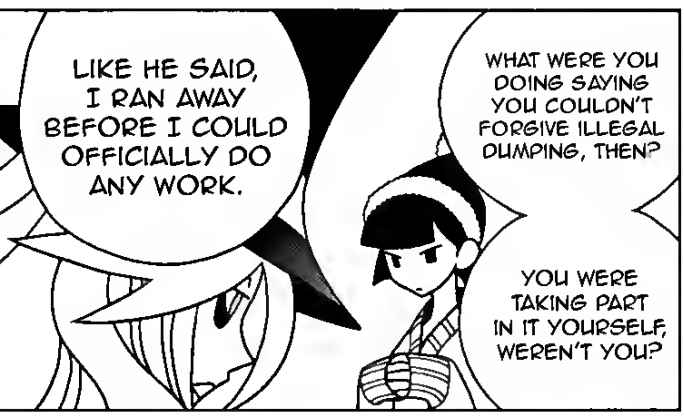
ARE BEING DUMPED HERE UNLAWFULLY!
THEN IT'S ENTIRELY POSSIBLE THAT THIS YEAR'S CHRISTMAS PRESENTS...
I CAN'T SIT IDLY BY WHILE UNSAVORY ELEMENTS ATTEMPT TO DISRUPT THE ORDER OF NOT ONLY THE FOURTH, BUT THE THIRD DIMENSION AS WELL!
WHERE ARE YOU GOING, COUNT?
Came early for Christmas this year...
♪ Scatter-brained old Santa Claus...
THEY'RE SINGING SONGS ABOUT ME NOW!?
!
♪Scatter-brained Santa Claus...♪
I'M NOT SANTA!
THAT'S AMAZING!
EH?
YOU WERE SANTA THIS WHOLE TIME?
AND IT'S NOT AMAZING!

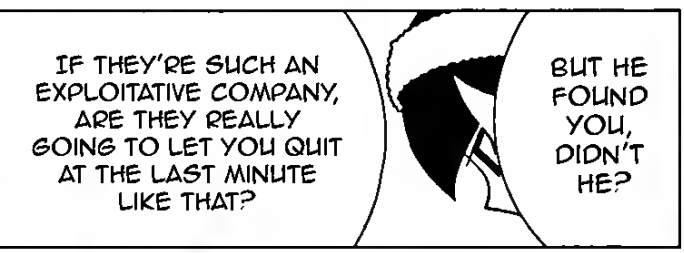
EEE
YAAA!
I'M SORRY! I'M SORRY!
HE APOLOGIZES, THIS TIME...
IS MAGO'S UNDERWEAR REALLY THAT TERRIFYING?
ANOTHER FOUR-DIMENSIONAL MUST HAVE JUST COME THROUGH!
ALTHOUGH SHORT-LIVED, FOUR-DIMENSIONAL BEINGS MOVE EXTREMELY QUICKLY, CREATING GALE-FORCE WINDS WHENEVER THEY APPEAR!
IN THE CONTEXT OF THIS STORY, MEANINGLESS PANTY-SHOTS ARE NOT MEANINGLESS AT ALL, BUT INSTEAD ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY!
WHENEVER A SEEMINGLY UNNATURAL PANTY-SHOT OCCURS IN YOUR OWN TOWN...
IT MAY JUST BE THE WORK OF A FOUR-DIMENSIONAL BEING.
SPARE US THE EXPLANATION!
MY HIGH SPEED CAMERA SHOULD HAVE CAPTURED IT THIS TIME TOO!
EH? IT'S A PERMANENT THING NOW?

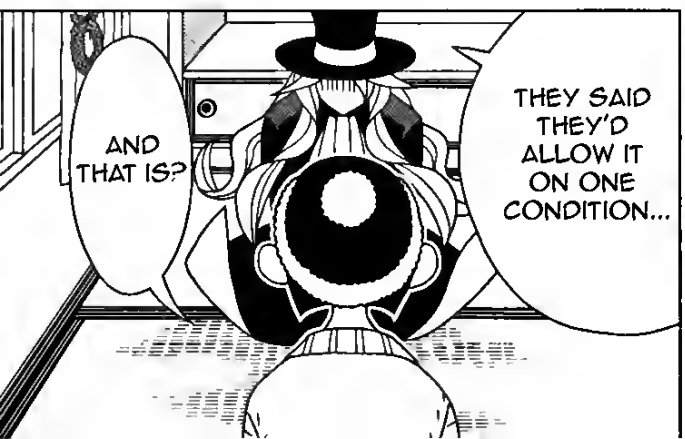
SANTA CLAUS!?
AH, SENPAI... HOW'S IT GOING?
SO THIS IS WHERE YOU RAN OFF TO, HUH?
THE HELL ARE YOU DOING SKIPPING OUT ON US LIKE THIS!?
IT'S CHRIST-MAS EVE!
HE'S SAYING SOME-THING TO THE COUNT!
AND ONE WITH AN ILLEGAL WASTE DUMPING CONTRACTOR, AT THAT...
SO THE ROLE OF SANTA IS JUST A PART-TIME JOB FOR SUPER-HUMANS?
THE COMPANY THAT CURRENTLY DISPATCHES SANTAS, SANTAROZA...
TO PUT IT VERY SIMPLY, YES.
WAS JUST THE COUNT SKIPPING OUT ON HIS PART-TIME JOB?
IN OTHER WORDS, SCATTER-BRAINED SANTA...

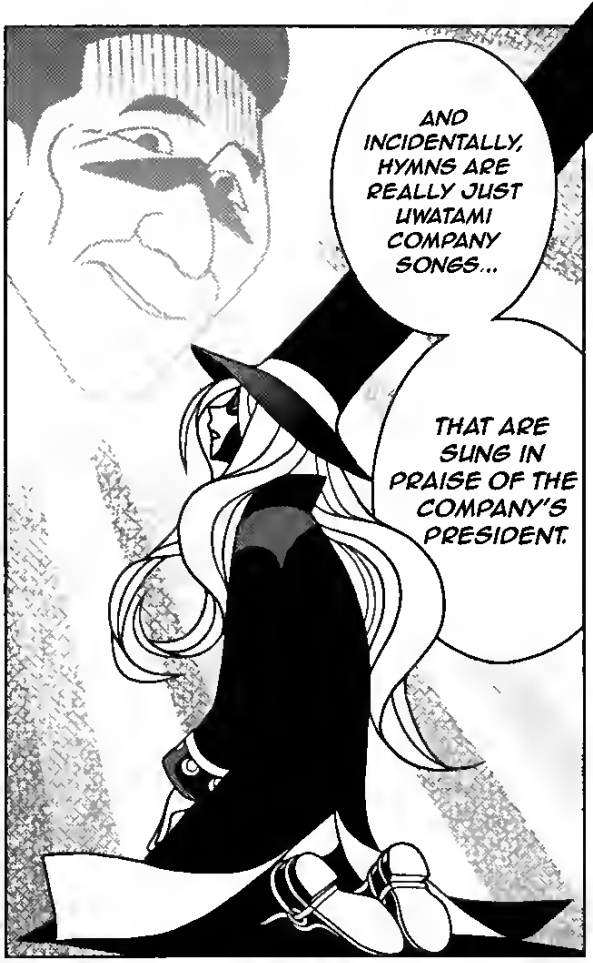
ONE OF THE SUPERHUMAN WORLD'S MOST EXPLOITATIVE CORPO-RATIONS!
IS OPER-ATED BY UWATAMI ...

BUT THE FACT THAT SANTA HAS BEEN SIGHTED BY SO MANY HUMANS INDICATES THAT HE'S RATHER LOW-CLASS.
I DON'T THINK I SHOULD HAVE TO SAY THIS ...
SANTA IS A PART-TIME JOB AT A COMPANY THAT EXPLOITS ITS WORKERS?


LIKE HE SAID, I RAN AWAY BEFORE I COULD OFFICIALLY DO ANY WORK.
WHAT WERE YOU DOING SAYING YOU COULDN'T FORGIVE ILLEGAL DUMPING, THEN?
YOU WERE TAKING PART IN IT YOURSELF, WEREN'T YOU?


IF THEY'RE SUCH AN EXPLOITATIVE COMPANY, ARE THEY REALLY GOING TO LET YOU QUIT AT THE LAST MINUTE LIKE THAT?
BUT HE FOUND YOU, DIDN'T HE?

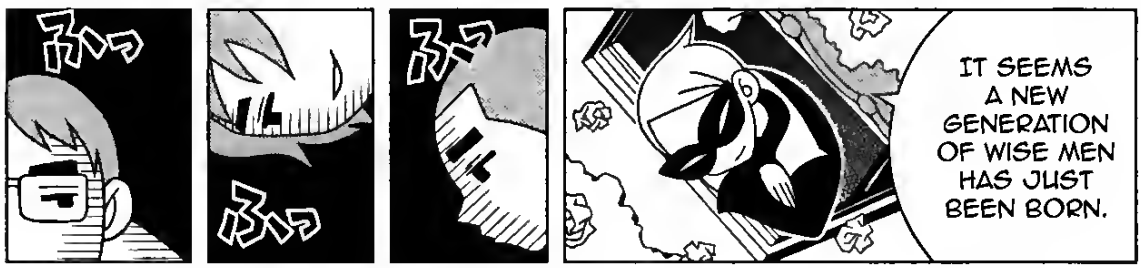

AND THAT IS?
THEY SAID THEY'D ALLOW IT ON ONE CONDITION...


AND INCIDENTALLY, HYMNS ARE REALLY JUST UWATAMI COMPANY SONGS...
THAT ARE SUNG IN PRAISE OF THE COMPANY'S PRESIDENT.

THEY SAID I COULD QUIT SO LONG AS I BROUGHT THEM SOMEONE TO REPLACE ME.
AHHH...
THAT STANDS TO REASON.
I KNOW, HOW ABOUT YOU?
すく
YOU'RE NOT BUSY.
NO WAY.
NOT SOMETHING SO EXPLOITATIVE AND HIGH-PROFILE.
IS IT REALLY A JOB THAT NORMAL HUMANS...
CAN DO TOO?
IT'S TECHNICALLY ILLEGAL WITHOUT A WORK VISA...
BUT WE'RE NOT TALKING ABOUT THE KIND OF COMPANY THAT CARES ABOUT STUFF LIKE THAT.
YOU'VE HEARD OF PEOPLE BEING SPIRITED AWAY, RIGHT?
THOSE ARE HUMANS BEING ABDUCTED AND FORCED TO WORK BY EXPLOITATIVE SUPERHUMAN CORPORATIONS!
Missing From
WELL, YOU COULD CERTAINLY SAY THE CONDITIONS THEY FORCED CHIHIRO TO WORK IN...
WERE PRETTY EXPLOITATIVE.

Shiru Kudo Soleil
I CAN INTRODUCE YOU TO SOMEONE EXTREMELY CAPABLE!
ANYWAY, I NEED TO FIND SOMEONE TO TAKE MY PLACE QUICKLY!
HE'S A WISE MAN.
HIM?
THERE CERTAINLY IS SOMETHING IN HIS EYES THAT SUGGESTS FARSIGHTEDNESS...
IN THE THIRD DIMENSION, INDIVIDUALS SUCH AS THIS ARE KNOWN AS "SAGES."
WHAT KIND OF WISE MAN IS THIS!?
AH.
SNOW.
BUT A WISE MAN INSTEAD, YOU CAN PROBABLY GIVE HIM THE JOB WITHOUT WORRYING, RIGHT?
WELL, IF HE'S NOT A NEET OR A LAZYBONES OR SOME KIND OF HIKIKOMORI...
NO, THIS IS...
カニッ
IT'S A WHITE CHRISTMAS.
WOW...

A WHITE KOSURI-MAS.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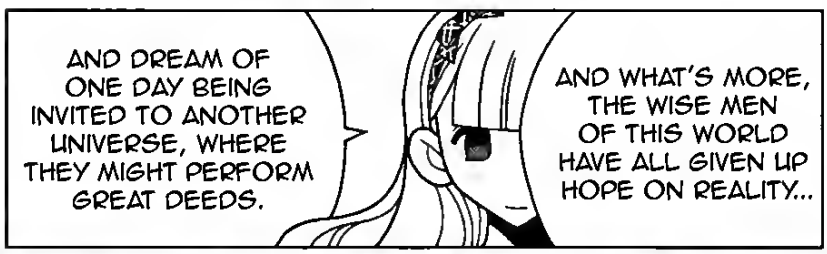
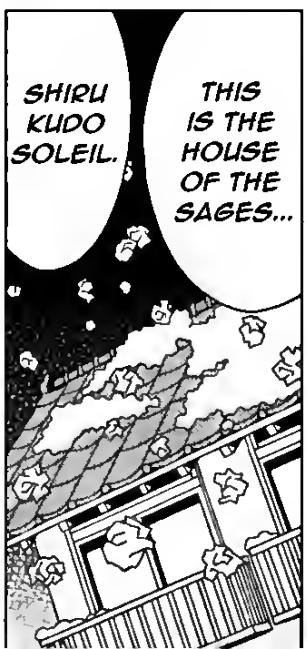
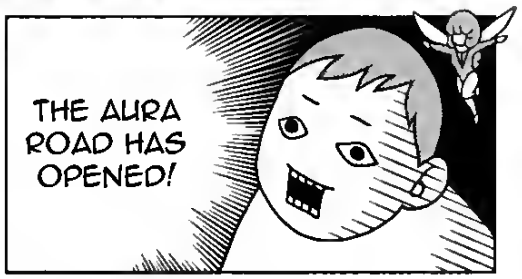
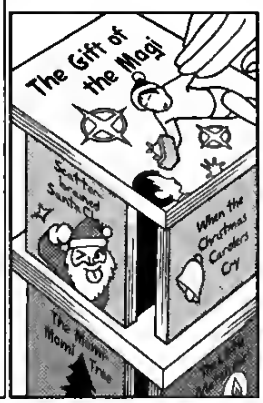
IT SEEMS A NEW GENERATION OF WISE MEN HAS JUST BEEN BORN.


AND DREAM OF ONE DAY BEING INVITED TO ANOTHER UNIVERSE, WHERE THEY MIGHT PERFORM GREAT DEEDS.
AND WHAT'S MORE, THE WISE MEN OF THIS WORLD HAVE ALL GIVEN UP HOPE ON REALITY...


SHIRU KUDO SOLEIL.
THIS IS THE HOUSE OF THE SAGES...

TH-THIS IS... A PORTAL TO A PARALLEL UNIVERSE!?
IN OTHER WORDS, IT'S A WIN-WIN SITUATION.

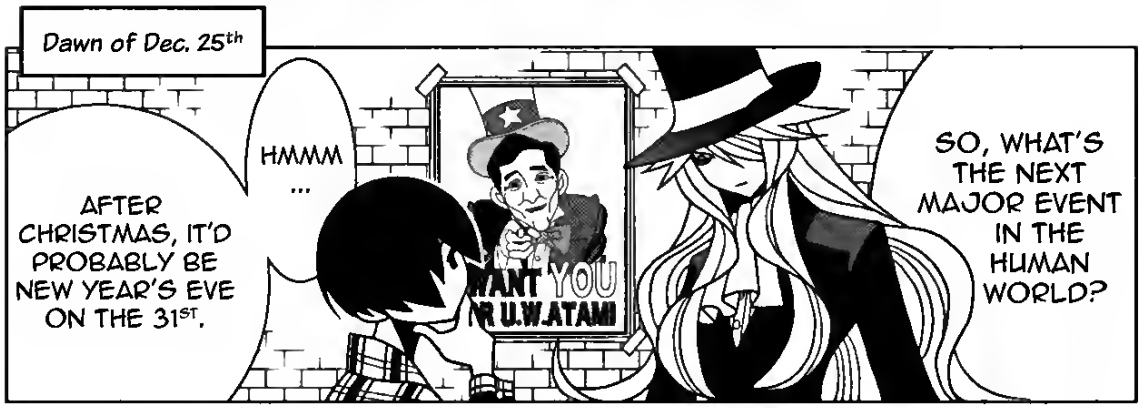




A message for parents:

The point of this story is that every child is a seed, who may one day grow into a flower. Even if they do not seem to be doing well in life, we must do our best to watch over them patiently.

I WANT YOU
FOR U.W.ATAMI


Dawn of Dec. 25th
AFTER CHRISTMAS, IT'D PROBABLY BE NEW YEAR'S EVE ON THE 31ST.
HMMM ...
SO, WHAT'S THE NEXT MAJOR EVENT IN THE HUMAN WORLD?

ヒュルルル

THEN WE SHALL MEET AGAIN ON THE 31ST!

Translator's Notes

- *Page 5, Final Panel:* "Don't make it sound like recyclable waste."
  "Dimensional waste" is "jigen gomi." "Recyclable waste" is "shigen gomi."

- *Page 8, Panel 8:* "Yaku Mitsuru"
  Pen name of manga artist Hatakeyama Hideki, known in part as a collector of things used and thrown away by celebrities, like straws and cigarette butts.

- *Page 12, Final Panel:* "Santaroza"
  A parody of Monteroza, Inc., a Japanese company that operates many Izakaya-style chain restaurants.

- *Page 13, Panel 1:* "Uwatami"
  A parody of the restaurant company Watami Co., Ltd., which has a reputation for being extremely exploitative of its workers through practices like unpaid overtime.

- *Page 14, Panel 5:* "Joshijima," "Financiers"
  Kumeta's editor Joshijima-kun going out to buy Financier cakes is also mentioned in the SZS Paper Blogs from volume 29.

- *Page 15, Panel 2:* "Shiru Kudo Soleil"
  A parody of the Cirque du Soleil theatrical company. "Shiru" is written with the character for soup or juice, a reference to semen, while "Kudo" means "nine times."

- *Page 15, Panel 5:* "Sages"
  In Japanese, the period of clear-headedness immediately following ejaculation is sometimes colloquially referred to as "sage time" or "sage mode."

- *Page 16, Panel 1:* "Kosuri-mas"
  A pun based on the verb "kosuru," meaning "to rub."

- *Page 17, Panel 2:* "Aura Road"
  A reference to the anime Aura Battler Dunbine.